



CEPPS/IFES Quarterly Report: April 1, 2005 – June 30, 2005

Uganda – Strengthening Political Pluralism, Parties and the Electoral Process

**USAID Associate Agreement: 617-A-00-04-00002 under
Leader Agreement DGC-A-00-01-00004-00**

Project Period: October 1, 2003 – June 30, 2006

Total Budget: \$730,000 Expenses Recorded to Date: \$292,332

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- IFES recruited Country Director Don Campbell and commenced field office set-up.
- IFES Country Director met with CEPPS partners, USAID, US Embassy and ERIS
- PMP for IFES activities was submitted to USAID.
- IFES Country Director met with members of the Ugandan Electoral Commission (EC) to discuss tentative plans for assistance.

BACKGROUND

IFES has been working with the EC through its Basic Elections Administrative Training (BEAT) program, which began with some headquarters and district staff in BEAT 1 and then expanded to include all Commissioners and part of the EC's Management team in BEAT 2. Building on these previous successes, IFES concluded this training with a third round of BEAT that created a team of core facilitators within the EC. These facilitators conducted workshops for district field staff through four regionally based workshops. The core team also developed a mini-Training of Trainers (ToT) program for field staff to train thousands of poll workers. As a result of the partnership that was established with the EC through BEAT trainings, IFES was asked to assist the Commission in expanding their capacity to manage the 2006 national elections.

There was continued pressure from international groups for the Ugandan government to end the war in the northern region. The government continues to fight against the rebel movement, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The conflict in the north has also complicated and incited violence spilling over the border into the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has displaced more than 1.6 million people, who are living in squalid conditions in camps across northern and eastern Uganda.

In early June, President Museveni pledged to forgive the leader of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Joseph Kony, if he gave up fighting and came out of the bush. He assured Kony that he would receive the same fair treatment and immunity from prosecution as other former LRA commanders who had surrendered to the government. In 2000, the Ugandan parliament passed a blanket amnesty law promising total immunity

to rebels who had surrendered, a move designed to weaken the insurgency by encouraging its fighters to desert the LRA.

At least 60 percent of women in the largest camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in war-torn northern Uganda have encountered some form of sexual and domestic violence, a new survey has revealed. The study taken by the Ugandan government and UNICEF showed that rape and other forms of sexual and domestic violence were rampant in Pabbo, which is home to more than 64,000 IDPs.

ACTIVITIES

IFES commenced activities in May 2005, with the arrival of Country Director Don Campbell. Much of the first two months was spent developing a Work-plan and PMP with input from USAID. While renewing contact with the EC and USAID, IFES Country Director developed relationships with CEPPS partners, Monitoring and Evaluation Management Services (MEMS) and the Donor Technical Group. Initial meetings took place with various Heads of Department within the EC that expressed interest in the goals and objectives of IFES' project activities. Such meetings were held with the Heads of Voter Education, Training, Public Relations, Election Planning and Voter Registration.

IFES Country Director worked with the EC to edit materials that will be released for the July 28 Referendum. Some preliminary work on reviewing voter registration procedures has taken place, including discussions on issuing voter ID cards at an earlier stage—during the voter update period rather than the voter display period. IFES has also been approached by the EC's Planning and Research Department to assist with the creation of a new election timetable.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER

- Submit final version of Work-plan to USAID.
- Present Work-plan and budget of activities to the EC.
- Hire Administrative Assistant to work with IFES Country Director.
- Provide EC with informational posters to educate the IDP population in Northern Uganda about the July 28 Referendum. These posters will be printed in 3 languages: Acholi, Langi and English.
- Supply the EC with reusable 'Vote Here' banners that will make it easier to locate polling stations on day of the Referendum.
- IFES Africa Director Chris Hennemeyer, IFES Director of Programs Scott Lansell and IFES Director of Human Resources Stephanie Hoke will visit Uganda as part of their regional trip to meet with USAID, the EC and other partners.